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COUNTRY: Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC: General Military Information

EVALUATION: see below

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REMARKS:

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1. On 10 and 11 April 1952,

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were entrained at the Halle (N 52/D 92) freight yard. The troops came from the Flak Kaserne Weermilitz and from the Luftnachrichten Kaserne on Heideallee, Halle. (1)

2. On 9 April, learned from Soviet soldiers in Wissenfels (N 52/J 99) that the local troops would leave for their summer training camp after 15 April. (2)

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3. On 3 April, nine boxcars with machine gun and submachine gun ammunition were unloaded at the Mechterstedt railroad station east of Eisenach (L 51/ N 76). The ammunition was hauled to the Kindel troop training grounds. Ten boxcars with boxes and bags were unloaded at the same railroad station on 5 April, and 18 cars with coal for the Kindel troop training grounds on 8 April. A large quantity of material for the construction of low wooden buildings had been piled at the Mechterstedt railroad station for shipment to Halle.

4. On 11 April, Camp Ettenhausen at the Kindel troop training grounds was occupied by 3,500 to 4,000 troops with red-bordered black epaulets who had arrived from the direction of Langensalza (N 51/J 08).

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5. On 6 April, a column of sedans occupied by numerous field grade officers, including at least one colonel, left the Alvensleben Kaserne on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse, Gotha (N 52/A 57), and drove toward the Sachsendorf Kaserne on Jahnstrasse.

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6. On 7 April, the tank unit stationed in Grinna (N 52/E 40) departed for the Koenigsbreuck (N 52/A 31) troop training grounds, after large elements of the unit had already left during the preceding week. A German worker previously employed with the tank unit stated that the commanding officer was a Colonel Dimmig (fnu). (5)

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7. On 12 April, a unit with 18 light AT guns was entrained at the Wurzen (N 52/W 42) railroad station. A soldier said that the unit was leaving for the Koenigsbrueck troop training grounds. (6)

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8. On 6 April, a train of an unknown number of flatcars carrying 50 trucks and one boxcar with an escort of about 25 soldiers, stopped at the Muersdorf railroad station. Two of the soldiers asked how long it would take to go to Dresden (N 52/W 29). On 7 April, a train carrying arrived at the Muersdorf railroad station from the direction of Zossen. According to a railroadman, the train proceeded to Sperenberg. (7)

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Comments.

(1) Since February 1952, individual tank companies had continually moved to Chrdraf for short periods of practice firing. It is believed, however, that the troop movements beginning on 10 April 1952 are the first of a series going to Kindel where the units had also been for their summer training period in 1951. Several vehicles of the 21st Gds Mecz Div were observed in Kindel on 16 March 1952. They probably belonged to advance details.

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(2) (3) The strength of troops indicate that the howitzer artillery regiments of the 21st Gds Mecz Div, the 39th and 57th Gds Mts Rifle Div have already arrived in Kindel. an advance detail of the 655th How Arty Regt of the 57th Gds Mts Rifle Div was also observed in Kindel on 1 April 1952.

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(4) (5) According to observations the tank unit mentioned in paragraph 6 probably was the 1st Gds Tank Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div.

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(6) The troops loaded at the Wurzen railroad station probably were elements of the 20th Gds Mecz Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div. (7) The unidentified engineer regiment of the Third Gds Mecz Army is stationed in Sperenberg.

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